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Research Statement:

My research interests fall under the broad umbrella of exploring how the inflow of new workers affects local labor markets and individual decisions. I use my background in labor economics, econometrics, and microfounded macroeconomics, to inform the selection of my empirical research questions. I truly enjoy research, and I am always searching for novel ways to address economic questions.

In addition, I have been involved with teams of researchers in the Census Bureau to analyze and improve the quality of the Census Bureau's infrastructure data. In what follow, I will discuss my dissertation research, and then I briefly explain my current Census Bureau's project. Finally, I will outline my future plans.

Currently, I am working on the analysis of the role of firms and coworkers on individuals' labor outcomes (i.e. earnings and job opportunities). Specifically, I'm looking at hiring opportunities and average earnings of immigrant and native workers in a market where firms are owned by different types of owners (natives and immigrants). I also study whether wage premiums are associated with working for, or with, other immigrants. In the discussion, I analyze to what extent social networks can account for wage differentials within and between firms, and the hiring procedures of small firms. Using a search model where social networks reduce search frictions, I examine the theoretical implications of social ties between owners and workers on vacancies and equilibrium wages. My findings highlight the potential importance of social capital for understanding worker employment opportunities and wage gaps, especially for minority groups

As an economic analyst at US Census Bureau, I am working with Dr. John Haltiwanger and Dr. Kristin Sandusky to improve the quality of the US Self-Employment register and integrate that into the US Business Register. About 10% of the US workforce is considered self-employed, and this proportion is expected to show different job flows from wage and salary workers. Their addition to the US Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) enables researchers to track spin-off business through several stages of entrepreneurship and growth. At the current phase of the project, I have studied the importance of different economic, and demographic indicators in imputation of several variables related to self-employment behavior. I have followed a set up code to impute annual and quarterly earnings. I am now preparing reports on patterns of annual job flows among self-employed and the transition patterns of entrepreneurship using data from almost 70% of the US states. This vast coverage of the U.S. employment is a huge advantage for analysis. Data mining with such a large database is cumbersome. Since my first days at Census, I have worked with this large database, and a set of surveys, using statistical program packages such as STATA and SAS in different language environments (UNIX and Windows). Mining micro databases requires a selective skill set that I have developed during my PhD program and my job experience in LEHD. Ability to concentrate, attention to details, and high levels of organization are some of these selective skills.

During my career, I have used both macroeconomic and microeconomic indicators to develop my research. Earlier in my graduate studies, I analyzed the main theoretical advances on intrahousehold allocation modeling and the latest empirical evidence from developing countries in testing for income pooling, for Pareto-efficiency, and for bargaining

model assumptions. Neglecting intrahousehold resource allocations could make policies directed to families fail in three ways. First, the impact of public transfers made to the household could be underestimated. Second, working under the income pooling model assumptions (assuming that individuals within a family have the same preferences among goods) decreases the variety of potential policies because of the restrictive nature of these models in the family member's behavior. Third, knowing the characterization of household member interactions might determine if public policies are able to mitigate the internal differences within households.

My research interest in the long run would encompass topics linking labor economics, public finance and macroeconomics. I am also interested in the use of theoretical models to explain micro-level behavior of individuals and firms in the labor market and its effects on social welfare and unemployment. In addition, I have successfully passed courses on these topics at the University College London and the University of Maryland. A strong background in mathematics, econometrics, and statistics has also been essential in the development of my research career.